# BASSIDEImage: Construction of the sector of the



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES FIRE DEPARTMENT A fire broke out in Ocean Pines early Sunday morning that caused extensive damage to one residence and minor damage to an adjacent home on Clubhouse Drive. No injuries were reported.

# Garage fire leads to damage of two homes in Ocean Pines

# By Jack Chavez

Staff Writer

(Feb. 17, 2022) The Ocean Pines Fire Department responded to a garage fire at 79 Clubhouse Drive that severely damaged one house and affected another early Sunday morning, according to a statement from the fire department.

The call came in at 4:24 a.m. and originally indicated that the occupants were trapped, but upon arrival, responders found that everyone inside the house had escaped.

Earlier reports indicated that one person was rendered unconscious from the fire, but Ocean Pines Fire Department

Chief Steve Grunewald said that too was part of the erroneous initial correspondence early Sunday morning.

No injuries were sustained and the fire was contained despite extensive damage that spread to other parts of the home and also affected an adjacent residence.

"Thanks to the extensive training and experience of all the volunteer and career firefighters who responded, the bulk of the fire damage was limited to the initial address with only exterior damage to one neighboring home," the statement said. "With the fire under control, crews remained on scene for an extended period See FIREFIGHTERS Page 4

# Berlin tax base grows \$17M over past year

#### By Greg Ellison Staff Writer

(Feb. 17, 2022) The Berlin mayor and council examined real estate tax rate projections, following an uptick in

the assessable base for residential and commercial property during an opening work session for the FY23 budget on Monday.

Finance Director Natalie Saleh said the data was presented

for discussion purposes prior to setting tax rates during the months-long budget process.

"Our current budget amount to be received for FY22 is \$3.8 million," she said.

Saleh said figures were up-

dated earlier that day after town officials received the state-calculated 2022 constant yield tax rate of 78.6 cents per \$100 of assessable value.

> The current rate is 81.5 cents, which this year is levied on a on real property base of \$481 million to produce \$3.8 million in revenue.

Natalie SalehUpdated<br/>ments for the tax year

ahead put the base at \$499.2 million, creating a constant yield tax rate at 78.6.

Using the updated tax base, Saleh calculated property tax revenues based on half-penny increments, with See NEW Page 4

# **Berlin reviews FY23** capital expenditures

#### By Greg Ellison Staff Writer

(Feb. 17, 2022) Town of Berlin officials kicked off FY23 budget discussions this week with a review of pro-

posed capital expenditures for Parks and Recreation, Public Works and the Police Department.

Mayor Zack Tyndall and the Town Council vetted a laundry list of proposed capital purchases to-

taling \$772,000 during a budget work session on Monday.

Finance Director Natalie Saleh said a portion of that would be paid with State Highway user funds estimated at \$230,000 and a Community Parks and Playground grant of roughly \$111,000.

"The remainder of capital projects would have to be

funded from revenues from the general fund," she said.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said renovating entrance doors at Town Hall is under consideration for an estimated cost of

a \$40,000.

"Right now we have a spring loaded door is what it boils down to," he said.

Saleh said the goal is to install double-entry doors to See BERLIN Page 3



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**Bayside Gazette** 

# **Berlin council considers CapEx punch list**

Continued from Page 1

create a small vestibule area in front of the customer service area.

"Sometimes people just want to grab a newspaper," she said. "It would be more heat efficient ... and actually will minimize traffic at the front."

Saleh said the building upgrade also would provide enhanced security.

"The door up front is not very secure at this point," she said.

Police Chief Arnold Downing requested equipment and vehicle replacement items totaling \$75,000.

The biggest ticket item was a 2023 Chevy Tahoe at \$45,000, along with mobile radio units for \$11,500, duty handguns for \$7,400, Tasers for \$5,000, along with radar and vehicle video equipment for \$6,100.

Downing said radar and vehicle video equipment are already in need of replacement.

"The laser unit died on us," he said.

Public Works Director Jimmy Charles detailed \$535,000 in budget requests, which include \$250,000 to repair streets and sidewalks primarily covered by state funding.

Roadway repairs budgeted for FY23 include Elizabeth Street at \$65,000, Schoolfield Street at \$70,000 and Quillin Drive to Broad Street at \$65,000.

"These are the streets we're seeing the most ... pot holes and deterioration," he said.

Additionally, plans are afoot to install a stretch of sidewalk along Tripoli Street to Stephen Decatur Park at an estimated cost of \$50,000. "Right now, a lot of people walk up the street," he said. "It gets a little tight when you get two vehicles and people walking."

Charles also reviewed a list of truck, tractor and mower replacements totaling \$272,000.

Topping the list was a backhoe tractor at \$125,000 that would also be used by the Water Resources Department.

"The backhoe we have does not meet our needs anymore mechanically," he said.

Charles said the current backhoe is a 2001 John Deere that provides less hydraulic strength to dig holes compared to newer models.

Charles said a Ford F550 dump truck costing \$87,000, which would also be used by Water Resources, would kill two birds with one stone.

"It would replace two trucks in my department," he said.

These include a model year 2000 GMC 3500 and a 1999 GMC 7500.

"This is a discontinued unit from GMC, so when we're looking for parts, they're very hard to find," he said. "When we find them, they're very expensive."

Other vehicle needs for Public Works include a Ford F250 pickup costing \$45,000 that would replace a 2003 F150 currently in use.

Lastly, a John Deere zero-turn mower costing \$15,000 would replace a 2007 model with 30,000 hours of use.

"We've been welding and Bandaiding the deck the last couple of years," he said. Additional budget requests from Public Works included \$5,000 for fleet maintenance software to track repairs and upkeep.

"Right now, we track all orders by paperwork," he said. "This will let us be all automated and do everything electronic."

Charles said the software would permit a handful of users and could benefit other departments including police, electric, water and sewer.

The final item sought by Public Works was a 20-by-40-foot concrete pad oil separator for \$8,000.

Charles said the concrete pad would be located at Public Works electric division to wash vehicles.

"When we're washing down equipment and trash trucks, we want to start collecting the oils and sludge," he said.

Charles said the concrete pad includes a central drain with an inground 55-gallon drum.

"It's not a large amount of oils but we're trying to be proactive," he said.

Fleetwood said the oil separator would be pumped out roughly twice a year.

"It filters out and takes the oil and the sludge," he said. "It will capture that and then water is discharged."

Tyndall agreed the upgrade would

provide environmental benefits.

"I have to applaud the fact that you are taking the proactive approach to separate the oil and sludge from something that would just be going into a run off ditch," he said.

Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen closed the capital expenditures review session with a request from Parks and Recreation to install lighting at the Henry Park basketball courts at an estimated cost of \$122,000.

Bohlen said the bulk of funding would be provided by through a Community Parks and Playgrounds grant totaling \$111,650.

Berlin resumes work on March 14 with budget introduction and first reading of the FY23 proposed tax rate.

On March 28 a public hearing is scheduled to review the proposed tax rate prior to adoption by council. The proposed constant yield rate will also be reviewed on this date.

In April, a trio of budget work sessions is scheduled on the first three Mondays starting at 5 p.m.

The first reading of the FY23 budget is scheduled for May 9 at 7 p.m.

On May 23 a public hearing on the FY23 budget is scheduled prior to council adoption.

# **County seeking applications for preservation of ag land**

(Feb. 17, 2022) On behalf of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), Worcester County is accepting applications from landowners interested in participating in the MALPF program through the voluntary sale of an agricultural easement to the foundation.

An agricultural easement is a voluntary, permanent agreement that runs with the land. Development of land encumbered by the easement is strictly limited, but agricultural and natural resource uses and activities are allowed, including crop production, timber harvest and hunting.

Eligible properties must be at least 50 acres in size (unless contiguous to an existing MALPF easement or another applicant) and meet a minimum soils requirement. The value of the easement payment is determined by property appraisals conducted at the expense of the State of Maryland.

Payment is a one-time, per acre payment. Payments in recent years have ranged from \$1,800 to \$2,700 per acre and depend on multiple factors.

Over 9,400 acres in Worcester County are permanently protected from development with a voluntary MALPF easement.

To be eligible for participation this year, applications must be submitted to Worcester County by May 13. Since preparation of this application can be a lengthy process, potential applicants are encouraged to begin the process as soon as possible.

Worcester County landowners interested in selling a voluntary perpetual agricultural easement or learning about other land conservation options may contact Katherine Munson of Worcester County Environmental Programs at 410-632-1220, extension 1302. HOSTED WINE DINNER NO.5 THURSDAY MARCH 10

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PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES FIRE DEPARTMENT

The early-morning Ocean Pines fire on Sunday collapsed the roof of the garage that it originated in, but despite the severity of the blaze, firefighters were able to quickly and effectively contain it.

# Firefighters quickly contain garage fire, prevent spread

Continued from Page 1 completing overhaul."

Though the roof of the garage collapsed as a result of the fire, Grunewald said afterward that the fire didn't present any unusual challenges.

"We didn't have any trouble," he said. "The crews got there pretty quickly and confined the fire to the main house. There was a little superficial damage to the siding of the next-door house (but that was the extent of it)."

"It was a basic, clean-cut fire for

us. We didn't have any issue with water supply and that's what we train for. The guys were ready for it and did a fantastic job and were able to control it with minimal damage to the house to the left of it."

Fire Departments for Berlin, Bishopville, Ocean City, Showell, Selbyville and Frankford were also alerted to the fire.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office. No updates were available as of Tuesday afternoon.





# **OP Racquet Sports looking ahead to spring season play**

#### By Greg Ellison Staff Writer

(Feb. 17, 2022) Ocean Pines Racquet Sports Committee members discussed pending increases for guest rates, winter maintenance, pickleball court expansions and upcoming spring clinics during

its meeting on Feb. 10.

Committee Chairman Rhett Parsons said the possibility of raising daily fees was examined during the group's last meeting. "We understood if

they needed to go up, but we were hoping they wouldn't," he said.

T. Underkoffler

Parsons said committee members had considered a 5 percent increase for each racquet sport.

"Our recommendation was for guest fees," he said.

Based on committee feedback, the association opted to increase daily guest fees for pickleball and platform tennis to \$7 for residents and \$8 for non-residents, while tennis would run \$10 for residents and \$15 for nonresidents.

"That will be the guest rates for this coming year," he said.

Turning to maintenance issues, Parsons said numerous court surfaces have cracks in need of repair.

In addition to Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue discussing repairs with contractors, committee member Karen Kaplan also located resources to aid the work.

"There's a lot of different possibilities," he said. "We are definitely going to get someone that's professional to do it."

Parsons said the association would make the final determination on which repair options to pursue.

Parsons also highlighted efforts by

### Manklin Meadows Racquet Sports Complex managers Tim McMullen and Terry Underkoffler to maintain court surfaces during winter months.

"Right now, they're a challenge because of the thawing, rain and snow," he said. "January was a beautiful representation of winter here."

General Manager John Viola offered a progress report on the installation of additional pickleball courts.

"Pickleball court bids should be received back by Feb. 18," he said.

Viola intends to present cost totals for constructing a pair of new pickleball courts during the Board of Directors' meeting on Feb. 23.

"It should be enough time to have courts ready for May," he said.

Swapping out marquee sign messages on a playground adjacent to the Racquet Sports Complex was proposed by Kaplan.

"On any nice day, the place is packed with kids and families," she said.

Kaplan suggested the playground marquee should contain messages relevant to youths.

"We would use a marquee on the parkway for racquet center events," she said.

Parsons backed the recommendation.

"That's a better use of the advertising space as it were," he said.

Viola said committee members should contact the association's Public Relations Department if additional advertising needs arise.

Looking ahead, Parsons said an array of racquet sport clinics are scheduled this spring, including Spec Tennis on April 9 and 14, plus Timeless Tennis on April 23 and 28.

Lastly, "Friday Family Fun Night" events are slated for May 13 and 20, with a \$12 fee covering court rentals, equipment and basic instruction.

# New assessments in Berlin add \$17 million to tax base

#### Continued from Page 1

82 cents netting an additional \$312,000, 82.5 cents an added \$336,000 and 83 cents increasing revenues by \$360,000.

Council member Jay Knerr asked what the result would be of maintaining current property rates.

"If we do nothing, with the tax rate, people will pay an increase in their Berlin property tax of 3.8 percent?" he asked.

"It depends on the value of the home," she said.

Saleh said real estate tax rates are reset on a three-year cycle, with residential figures updated this year and commercial rates now in year two of the sequence.

"The tax rate is the same for both," she said.

Saleh said Berlin's assessable base consisted of 83 percent residences and 17 percent commercial properties.

Mayor Zack Tyndall said after factoring in new construction, Berlin's assessable real estate tax base is on the brink of topping \$500 million by July.

"If you look at this constant yield tax rate certificate, it's pretty evident that our assessable base has grown," he said.



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# Worcester County pulls pitch for OP golf irrigation project

## **By Greg Ellison**

Staff Writer

(Feb. 17, 2022) After previously thinking about investing more than \$3 million to convert the Ocean Pines Golf Course irrigation system to one that sprays treated wastewater, the Worcester County Commissioners have opted against moving ahead with the project.

In a letter dated Feb. 3, Public Works Director Dallas Baker informed the Ocean Pines Association of the change of course on the proposal.

"County commissioners have elected not to move forward with the golf course wastewater effluent spray irrigation project," he said.

Baker said a memo of understanding for the irrigation upgrades was cleared by the commissioners in closed session on Feb. 1.

"The MOU failed to garner the support needed to pass," he said.

Following a town hall meeting on the matter in September, the Ocean Pines Board of Directors issued a letter of support for Worcester to convert the golf course irrigation system.

In January 2020, the Ocean Pines Service Area Water & Wastewater Advisory Board was authorized by the county to explore using highly treated effluent to irrigate greens and fairways.

"Highly treated effluent" is defined as water meeting current Maryland Department of the Environment Bay Restoration standards.

Ocean Pines Association President Colette Horn said county officials initially had pitched the effluent irrigation



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GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines was informed earlier this month that the Worcester County Commissioners have opted against project funding to convert the golf course irrigation system to spray treated effluent.

project.

"The discussion of the project was at a very high level in that no details had been decided upon," she said. "There were many questions put to the county representative during a town hall meeting with our membership."

Horn said board members had expressed interest in exploring the project's particulars and what it would cost association members.

Commissioner Chip Bertino said county officials eventually concluded the project's price tag was too high.

"The project for irrigation was roughly about \$3.7 million," he said. "It was a worthwhile project, however, when we started looking at the details of what it would take to do ... it really fell outside what the county should and could do."

The commissioners had appeared poised to spend more \$3 million to

make the switch from a system that draws and disperses groundwater to keep the greens green to one that is fed by harmless treated effluent from the county wastewater treatment operation in Ocean Pines.

In terms of project costs, during the town hall meeting in September, the cost of building the irrigation infrastructure was estimated at roughly \$2.8 million, with another \$400,000 required for piping to transport treated effluent to the golf course.

Additionally, Worcester was budgeting \$3.5 million to replace a belt filter press (dewatering equipment) at the Ocean Pines wastewater treatment plant.

"We'll still go forward with that, which is part of maintenance and capital improvement," he said.

Horn said after catching wind that See WORCESTER Page 8





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# **Berlin Council Briefs**

#### **By Greg Ellison** Staff Writer

(Feb. 17, 2022) Berlin Town Council was updated on housing construction, infrastructure improvements and grant applications during its meeting on Monday.

# Grant pursuits

Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said her department is preparing for a number of upcoming grant applications.

"Right now we gather all the information we need so that we can be ready to apply for grants in the spring," she said.

The list includes funding requests for a street scape project on Commerce and Pitt streets.

Wells said improvements would be for above ground items, such as historic lamp posts, sidewalks and landscaping. In hopes of acquiring backing for



Ivv Wells

Berlin's Downtown District, Wells is also applying for a Main Street Improvement Grant.

"It is strictly for just downtown Main Street designated districts," she said.

Other funding being sought includes the Community Legacy Grant, as well as operating capital for Berlin's Arts and Entertainment District.

Wells said the arts district extends through downtown and includes the majority of Flower Street.

"We're pretty busy in my department right now," she said.

# **Enterprise funds**

The council voted unanimously to establish an enterprise fund reserve policy for water, sewer and storm water utilities.

Finance Director Natalie Saleh said the intent is to assure sufficient funding is on hand for future capital projects, repairs or unanticipated expenses.

"We're seeking adoption of a policy to establish capital and stabilization reserves for the enterprise funds," she said.

Saleh said addressing reserves for the electric fund would be examined after permissions are granted by the Maryland Public Service Commission.

Mayor Zack Tyndall said the approval was solely to establish the reserve policy for enterprise funds, with associated rates determined at a later date.

"This is one of those best practices that was identified during the SERCAP study," he said.

Jean Holloway, from Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project Inc. (SERCAP) in Delaware and eastern Maryland, spoke to the council last month to review conclusions initially



shared in November

Holloway said both water and wastewater utilities are not financially sustainable under the current rate structure.

Tyndall said the policy would create a framework for building capital reserves for water, wastewater and storm water.

"We'd like to pursue electric, but that's going to take a little work through the public service commission," he said.

# Well work

Water Resources Superintendent Jamey Latchum said work began last week to drill a test well on Branch Street to replace aging infrastructure dating to 1948

Latchum said the test well was drilled to a depth of 125 feet and is the first step to replace the outdated well.

"Now they'll design and develop the new well," he said. "We're hoping to drill within 30 days."

Latchum said the new well would measure 12 inches with an 18-inch casing and be installed at a depth of 105 feet.

"Once they start drilling, they will work around the clock," he said.

Latchum said drilling would take roughly two days, with the soundwaves likely to affect less than a half dozen homes

"When they start drilling the big well, we will have to knock on some doors to let people know," he said.

The target date to have the well fully functional is May 1.

"I've never seen a large diameter well go in so it's going to be a first for me," he said.

Latchum said during previous discussions with Worcester County and Maryland Department of the Environment Continued on Page 9

# Worcester drops **Pines golf pitch**

Continued from Page 6

Worcester County plans to halt all activity tied to the irrigation system upgrades, General Manager John Viola is researching alternatives.

"Mr. Viola is working with his director of golf operations [John Malinowski] and golf superintendent [Justin Hartshorne] to evaluate the condition of the existing irrigation system, assess needs, and come up with a plan to address identified needs," she said

Bertino said Ocean Pines wastewater treatment plant has sufficient capacity currently and discharges highly cleaned effluent.

"You have a very good water treatment plant in Ocean Pines, in fact it's the best in the state," he said. "There was really no need to do this project and the cost associated really didn't justify the county getting involved."

#### **Bayside Gazette**

# Beach Lacrosse registration open until March 1 for youth

(Feb. 17, 2022) The 2022 Beach Lacrosse season is right around the corner and registration is now open to all ages, pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade, until March 1.

Beach Lacrosse board members are hoping to see registration numbers grow, encouraging more kids to fall in love with America's oldest sport.

"It's a new year and a perfect time for kids to get excited about a new season with Beach Lacrosse," said Beach Lacrosse Vice President Jenny Carven. "Whether you are new to the sport or an experienced player, we thrive on fair, inclusive play that forms a fun, sportsmanlike environment for all ages."

The season will open the week of March 7, with practices at Worcester County's Northern Athletic Complex. Along with practices, games are held

**Berlin Council Briefs** 

Continued from Page 8

officials, the life span for wells was estimated at 40 years.

"This one is 74 years old," he said. Latchum said the Branch Street well is the first in a series of aging apparatus that need addressing.

"The newest well in town is 1960 and was sleeved in 1962," he said. "We need to look at some of our wells in the near future because we want to assure we could provide needed resources."

# **Construction updates**

Planning Director Dave Engelhart said a number of housing projects are nearing completion.

Engelhart said expansion and renovation work at the Flower Street apartment complex located next to Henry Park is wrapping up.

"Homes For America is now working on the project to just remodel the apartments out on Bay Street," he said.

In the same vein, Engelhart said the Willows apartment project located at the end of Maple Avenue is humming along.

"We just finalized the community building and some of the other apartments are almost done," he said. "As the weather is turning nice, we should see some of these ... being filled up with tenants."

Also, Engelhart said the Oceans East project is now entering the third of four construction phases.

"You may see two more buildings out there in FY23," he said.

The current building phase is slated to add 48 apartments.

"Inspectors have praised the apartments' quality," he said.

Engelhart highlighted the importance of continuing to improve housing stocks in Berlin.

"I think that's a great thing that we

have good housing for everybody in town," he said.

on Saturdays, beginning the first

weekend in April through mid-May.

"Beach Lacrosse belongs to the East-

ern Shore Youth Lacrosse Association

(ESYLA) and plays teams across the

"Whether it's developing new skills

during practices or being challenged

during games against our ESYLA op-

ponents, we are proud that our Beach

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volved as a volunteer,

Beach Lacrosse is a nonprofit, vol-

oping lifelong friendships."

Carven

said.

visit

Eastern Shore,"

# Rails to trails

lacrosse@yahoo.com.

Tyndall said a letter of intent is being prepared for a bikeways construction grant.

"We have called it the 'Rails to Trails' project," he said.

Tyndall thanked the Worcester County Commissioners for agreeing to an earlier request to split the cost for a required 25 percent matching funds.

"We are grateful to them for that support," he said.

Engelhart said the bikeways grant application window is in May.

"This will springboard off the previous grant we had where we had the design completed ... back in FY17," he said. "We're going to try again to secure construction funds to build the bike way."

# Pending matters

Tyndall said a short-term rental ordinance is under development and intended for introduction at the next council meeting on Feb. 28.

"In order to pass an ordinance, we would have to have a public hearing," he said.

Tyndall said the public hearing is tentatively scheduled on March 14.

Progress on building a new community center on Flower Street continues to proceed, with a request sent last week to the county commissioners to transfer a three-quarter acre adjacent parcel for the effort.

"We sent a letter to the Worcester County Commissioners, who will be considering tomorrow a parcel transfer on Flower Street to bring four parcels together for the community center," he said.

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# **Berlin Planning frowns on Evans Rd. project**

# By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(Feb. 17, 2022) Concerns over urban sprawl were raised by Berlin Planning Commission members last week as they reviewed a proposed housing development on 45 acres on Evans Road.

John Wilson, with JE Wilson Construction, presented initial plans for "Humble Beginnings," a housing project of 57 single-family units envisioned to cost around \$400,000.

Planning Director Dave Engelhart said the Evans Road property, which is located adjacent to West Street, is not within town limits and would require future annexation.

Prior to approving annexation, a 60day comment period is required to receive feedback from the Maryland Department of Planning, Worcester County Planning and the Worcester County Commissioners.

Also public hearings would be held by both the Berlin Planning Commission and Town Council to authorize the annexation request.

Wilson said the proposed singlefamily home development would include a vegetative buffer zone to provide privacy for an adjacent neighborhood.

"It's a unique piece of property," he said.

Project developers also proposed es-



Sample home image for a proposed single-family home development on Evans Road that received unfavorable feedback during a concept review with the Berlin Planning Commission last week.

tablishing a green-way perimeter that could include passive paths or walking trails.

"We would make adjustments to any underground utility lines located during the land survey," he said.

Wilson said project renderings would also incorporate a stormwater management pond.

"No calculations have been done, but we understand areas will be required for those facilities," he said. Commission member Newt Chandler recommended developers include amenities and more open space areas for residents.

"It's a lot of homes [and] it's a lot of people," he said.

Wilson said project plans include an open space portion in the middle of the property.

Chandler recommended including gathering spots, such as a community center, in development plans.

"It's not enough for the proposed density of this project in my mind," he said.

Wilson said an overabundance of public use areas were avoided to limit potential nuisances for homeowners.

"Lot sizes are sufficient for families to use their own yard," he said.

Proposed average lot sizes are just under half an acre.

Chandler asked about forest conser-See HOUSING Page 12

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# Berlin Planning likes Evans Rd. storage deal

# **By Greg Ellison**

Staff Writer

(Feb. 17, 2022) The Berlin Planning Commission signed off on a site plan review for 500-plus self-storage units on Evans Road during its Feb. 10 meeting.

Contingent on aesthetic details, commission members approved the Evans Road Warehouse Park slated for roughly 5 acres adjacent to West Street.

Chris Carbaugh and Jason Lindsey with Atlantic Group Associates presented site renderings developed for Evans Parc LLC and Managing Partner Mark Slavin.

Carbaugh said 511 self-storage units are proposed on the 4.91-acre parcel zoned B-2 shopping district.

"Storage facilities are allowed," he said.

The project would involve 10 onestory buildings in total, including a 400-square-foot office near the entrance.

"It retains approximately 28 percent open space," he said. Carbaugh said the exterior of the

Carbaugh said the exterior of the structures would be in neutral beige and green hues.

"It would be phased-in project," he said.

Lindsey said storage units would range in size from 5-by-5 to 10-by-20foot and the site would be secured with black chain-link fencing.

In terms of potential traffic generation, Carbaugh said storage clients typically make infrequent trips.

"From my experience it's not something that creates excessive traffic," he said.

Commission Vice-Chairman Ron



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nation impacting the surrounding rearea. Si "Would they be down-lit so people d in the community would not see the

lights?" he asked. Carbaugh said lighting would be directed to be unobtrusive with existing vegetation on the perimeter of the property supplemented where needed.

Cascio inquired about on-site illumi-

"We'll keep existing vegetation where we can," he said.

Commission member Pete Cosby recommended site plan approval should be contingent on including dense perimeter vegetation.

"We're looking for serious blockage here from Evans Road," he said. "Not just low bushes, but high stuff."

Carbaugh assured commission members that the site would be appropriately landscaped.

Cosby confirmed yet-to-be-designed signs would not be illuminated. See WAREHOUSE Page 13

# Housing pitch falls flat in Berlin

Continued from Page 10

vation, with Wilson confirming a portion of the farm land is tree-covered.

"Is there an opportunity to make that a big recreation area?" he said.

Wilson said while the early focus was on adhering to related state forestry mandates, developers are open to including walking trails or other outdoor features.

"I'm all for anything that would put people out in open spaces," he said.

Commission member Pete Cosby raised concerns over increased westend traffic.

"Would people access Route 50 via Route 113 or Main Street?" he asked.

Cosby said earlier discussions regarding west-side growth included the possibility of building a beltway to access Broad and West streets, as well as Route 50.

Chandler balked at the suggestion. "Beltway sounds so metropolitan," he said.

Commission member Ron Cascio suggested that annexing the site would exacerbate the perceived need for enhanced roadways.

"That's where we appear to be going, isn't it?" he said.

Cosby echoed those sentiments.

"We have an increased traffic problem coming into downtown Berlin and this project is going to dump a lot more in there," he said.

Cosby said earlier discussions have highlighted the importance of preserving town limits to avoid morphing into a sprawling suburban district.

"This is an intrusion into that green belt that naturally exists," he said. "We need housing that's for sure, but we don't have the road system to support a project of this intensity."

Wilson asked if reducing housing counts would make the proposal more palatable.

Cosby said the location would be more suitable for larger lot homes.

"Build some country estates and make it upscale," he said.

Wilson acknowledged if the parcel remained under the purview of Worcester County government, a significantly reduced number of homes with multi-acre lots would likely be approved. Cosby said that scenario might be more suitable for Berlin.

"It's way more lots than I want to see until we have a plan for a road system that is going to bypass going downtown to get to Route 50 and elsewhere," he said.

Wilson proposed generating a traffic study to gauge potential average daily trips to and from the community.

"We will probably annex as R-1 residential district," he said.

Cascio held firm in opposition.

"This is just classic large lot sprawl," he said. "It's out of town so I don't know what it does ... except create obligations for services."

Cascio said town officials are presently mulling increases for utility services and property taxes.

"Before we talk about having any more people at this party, we better get our act together," he said.

Cascio stressed the importance of retaining a green belt of agricultural lands surrounding town to limit growth.

"This is just what people I talk to don't want to see, more annexations and more large lot subdivisions," he said.

Cosby acknowledged Berlin has yet to establish a master plan to manage growth.

"The westerly agricultural boundaries of Berlin I'd like to hold the line," he said. "I think we've got a well-defined town and that's what makes this place valuable."

By contrast, Cosby said growth should be focused north or east of Berlin.

"That's where we should be putting density," he said. "On the west side we've got a real opportunity to define this town as a standing town."

Wilson said the strong opposition dealt the project a potentially fatal blow.

"I'm kind of speechless with my approach right now," he said. "If this is going to be an excluded piece of property, I will suggest my client move on."

Chandler said expanding the town's footprint would not prove financially beneficial.

"It's a known fact that residential development is a zero-sum gain if not minus-sub gain in terms of taxes," he said. February 17, 2022

**Bayside Gazette** 

# Warehouse site plan resonates

Continued from Page 12

Carbaugh said signs would be unlit and aesthetically appropriate for Berlin, while also offering to include design review as an approval condition.

Planning Director Dave Engelhart said the parcel, which was annexed into town limits roughly two decades ago, would tap into water and sewer services.

Engelhart noted stormwater would have to be handled onsite.

"If they can't handle the stormwater onsite, then they have to come up with their own facilities," he said. "They can't discharge their stormwater off site, they have to engineer that into the site."

Carbaugh said project renderings include a large area for that purpose.

Cosby made a motion that received unanimous support to approve site plans contingent on landscaping, lighting and signage concerns.



#### SCREENSHOT BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Berlin Planning Commission gave a favorable recommendation for the Evans Road Warehouse Park site plan last week.

# Berlin making progress with new community center plans

#### By Jack Chavez Staff Writer

(Feb. 17, 2022) The Worcester County Commissioners on Tuesday unanimously approved a request from the Town of Berlin to transfer a parcel of county-owned land on Flower Street to the town for a planned community center.

Currently, the property is home of Shore Up! Inc., a nonprofit community action partnership. It was once the site of the Flower Street School.

"The multipurpose building (on the property) has been a gathering place for our community for a very long time," Mayor Zach Tyndall said. "It's in disrepair now and the town is committed to seeing a new community center built on this site. It's one that addresses the needs of our community today and in the future." Tyndall said the vision for the facility includes community services, a community kitchen, "potentially" recreation space, Shore Up! classroom space and meeting space for communities, organizations and nonprofits.

The short-term outlook for development includes addressing other parcels of land — specifically combining two that are owned by the Berlin Community Improvement Association to put the entire property at about 6.5 acres, which Tyndall said would offer the opportunity to start the design and construction phases.

"I hope some of those things are achievable in this fiscal year (and the next,)" Tyndall said, pointing out that FY23 is mere months away.

"In order to have a community center, it takes a community effort. I think Berlin is ready for it, ready to see this See COMMUNITY Page 15





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# Cuisine

# Assortment of grilled vegetables to enjoy

Is it summer yet? Or even spring? No, and if I must be honest, I could go for a couple more snowstorms before the weather breaks. Even better, after we



Page 14

have a lovely early spring, there is nothing in this world like a late spring knockdown, drag-out bliz-

zard. It has been years since that

has happened,

By Paul Suplee, MBA, CEC, PC-3

but since it has been years between the last blizzard and the latest, perhaps we can

continue this roll (enter lynch mob here). I love snow, but even more so I love what it does to make spring all the more enjoyable. It always makes me appreciate that snap of a finger when we go from frigid to steamy. After all, we do live in quite the bipolar state.

And once I can get these blasted shoes off my feet for three seasons of bare feet and sandals, I'm a happy boy. Eventually I do believe that I will move to Central America or at the very least, Florida where 65 degrees is an invitation for a hoodie, beanie, jeans and boots.

But, we must wait for the break in the seasons. Don't fret; we only have a few more weeks of potentially bone-chilling madness and then it's off to the races, as it were. Just imagine how lovely it is going to be to just sit on the sandbar or the beach in a matter of weeks and enjoy the balmy sun.

Fortunately for us, my third child to turn 21 will be doing so in two weeks, so we are obliged to head to Florida for a few days to help her mark that crowning achievement. It's all in a day's work, as they say.

And when I return to Maryland, bronzed and ... oh, who am I kidding?

I am as tan as I get all year, rocking the "Eurotan" as I call it. With French, Scottish, Irish and German blood coursing through my veins, there isn't much of a chance that I am going to get much darker than I am on New Year's Eve, when I regularly vow to sit lazily in a beach chair all summer to get that Bain de Soleil tan that I've heard so much about.

Nay, I just have to accept the fact that I am rather pale. That's just fine, although it does make me reconsider Central America as a retirement destination.

Luckily, the canopy is dense enough in many parts to protect me from the sun, so I think I'll be fine. In fact, after eight days there last year, I was barely any darker than when we departed from Baltimore on that foggy morning.

Alas, here we are discussing the end of winter, the commencement of spring and the grilling of lovely vegetables.

It's just another Thursday in the Bayside Gazette. At least this time you hopefully get a little laugh at my expense, knowing that you probably get to tan this summer. I'll just stick to preserving my lovely, child-like complexion while preparing my culinary wares for guests and friends alike.

And the beauty of today's platter lies in its simplicity. This is about as old school Ocean City as it gets, but people still love a good grilled vegetable platter. And I all but refuse to serve a vegetable crudite, as no one eats them and this is so easy to do, elevating the vegetables to a different state.

And when all is said and done, you can set them aside, using them over salads over the coming days, as a garnish for soups, as a bed for grilled chicken or seared salmon, or eat as is.

They are, simply put, a classic offering that everyone recognizes. Grilling vegetables lends a layer of flavor that is difficult to get from any other preparation method, and as they are often served



chilled, they are perfect for the summer months.

Summer. It feels good to write that. It will be here before you know it, and now you have one more dish to add to your arsenal. Believe me, as simple as it is, you will thank me.

# **Grilled Vegetables**

serves 12 as part of a meal

2 ea. Zucchini

2 ea. Squash

1 pt. Heirloom Grape Tomatoes

3 ea. Portobello Mushroom caps

1 ea. Red onion, sliced but slices kept whole

2 ears Sweet corn

2 c. Vinaigrette, or as needed

 Slice and season the vegetables, ensuring that they are at least 1/3-inch thick. Otherwise, and especially with the squash and zucchini, they will wilt away to mush.

Brush with a little bit of the vinai-

grette and place on a hot grill. These work great on a flat-top grill as well, if you happen to be tailgating or cooking at the beach.

• Cook for about two minutes for the larger vegetables, and then turn. Cook for a little bit longer (hard to give a precise time when every appliance is different), but pull off when they are al dente, or they still have some bite to them. They will continue cooking so you don't want to overdo it here.

• Chill the vegetables, or at least cool to room temperature if that is how you will serve them. It all depends on when you are serving and how.

• Season to taste, and drizzle with anything from balsamic drizzle to a sherry drizzle.

> Paul Suplee is a Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College and owner of boxcar40. Visit him at www.boxcar40.com.





Rendering of a proposed building expansion at the Berlin Activities Depot on Old Ocean City Boulevard that received positive feedback from the Berlin Planning Commission members during a concept review last week

# **Berlin Activities Depot expansion examined**

### **By Greg Ellison**

Staff Writer

(Feb. 17, 2022) Proposed structural additions for service expansions at the Berlin Activities Depot on Old Ocean City Boulevard got a favorable reception at the Planning Commission session last week.

Berlin Activities Depot owner Carmella Solito and project manager Dave Rovansek, with GMB Engineering, presented architectural renderings for a concept review during the commission meeting on Feb. 10.

Master concept plans proposed for the roughly 2.9-acre site zoned B-2 shopping district include additions to an existing structure and new construction. Rovansek told commission members that a "conceptual conversation" was sought before seeking site plan approval.

"This will build out the whole site," he said.

Located on Old Ocean City Boulevard and Graham Avenue, Berlin Activities Depot provides Pre-K classes, plus before- and after-school activities, summer camps, gymnastics training and all-ages fitness options.

Development plans include a northside addition to the existing building to roughly double the existing 11,250 square foot recreation center. The twostory build out would also include a 38seat café totaling more than 2,000 square feet.

Solito said the north-end addition would house a family support center. "Part of it is going to be used to service

voung teen moms and o-3-year-olds that can't afford our services," she said. "We did get \$1 million over three years to back a family support center."

Solito said the restaurant facility is intended as a site to provide cooking

classes for young families See BERLIN Page 17

**Community center progressing** 

Continued from Page 13 through and I think we can stay on track.'

Plans for the community center ramped up in December when represen-

tatives from the town, county, BCIA and Shore Up! Met to discuss it. In total, the project calls for combining four parcels into one. The town purchased a 0.57acre parcel in October.



garden. Home has recently been enhanced w/new vinyl plank flooring, new paint and professionally cleaned. Home boasts a light filled Great Room w/windows throughout! Enjoy entertaining family and friends in your chef style kitchen w/island, upgraded cabinetry a, new stainless refrigerator, and cathedral ceilings w/recessed lighting! Primary suite w/oversized walk-in closet, primary bath features double vanity and seated stand up shower. 2nd bedroom can be used for an office or bedroom w/private bath as well. Home is complete w/separate laundry room and located on a cul-de-sac. Home is being sold AS-IS as a convenience to the seller. Aggressively priced to sell quickly so call now for your private showing.



featuring new stove in 2021, Refrigerator, Dishwasher and Microwave purchased in 2011. Lovely expansive Sunroom located off kitchen. Relax in your Ig primary suite w/fully renovated bath in 2021. 2 lg custom designer bedrooms w/lg 2nd full bath. Home is complete w/oversized back deck installed in 2009, roof 2010, hot water installed 2017, dehumidifier for crawl space w/self-contained discharge pump used seasonally and replaced in 2019, W/D replaced in 2021 and garage w/attic storage. Located minutes from Maryland Beaches with an array of community amenities including multiple pools, community center, marina, and golf w/membership. Total square feet of 1449 -has not been adjusted accordingly to Tax Record due to the addition of Sunroom

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dining room, kitchen features stainless appliances and large

laundry room off kitchen. Three Ig bedrooms are located on

the second floor and full bathroom on the first floor. Home

features newer windows, as well as Heat Pump, oversize

walk-in Attic, as well as workshop in the basement. Home

has outdoor sheds and plenty of room to grow. Home needs

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schedule your private showing.

# Obituary

# FANNIE W. BIRCKHEAD

Snow Hill

Fannie W. Birckhead, a lifelong resident of Snow Hill, Maryland, died at her home on Feb. 9, 2022.

A daughter of the shore, Mrs. Birckhead loved her community and lived her life embodying her favorite Margaret Mead quote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Mrs. Birckhead was educated in Worcester County public schools, attended the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and College Park and held certificates in geriatric nursing and cosmetology. She was a longstanding member of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Snow Hill.

Mrs. Birckhead always gave of her time and talents. Volunteering was her life's work.

She was an enthusiastic volunteer for a myriad of civic and community organizations including life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); Snow Hill Citizens for Decent Housing; Worcester County Alcohol and Other Drug Task Force; Worcester County Voter Rights Coalition; state liaison -Worcester County Extension; Worcester County Cedar Chapel Special School Ad-

visory Board; treasurer of Lewis N. Watson Funeral Home Scholarship fund; treasurer of House Hold of Ruth #1629; Eastern Star Lily of the Valley #24; and March of Dimes, Walk America Program.

If this was not enough, you might find her at a food bank. She enjoyed giving and volunteered with the programs and activities for Community Advancement

(P.A.C.A.) Food Bank in Snow Hill. As a breast cancer survivor, she was an avid supporter of the American Cancer Society.

For more than 20 years, Mrs. Birckhead, her family, with cleaned a two mile

stretch of road just outside Snow Hill, four times a year as part of the Maryland Adopt a Highway Program. And every Christmas season, she served as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign, even through covid this past December.

She served as the chairwoman of SHORE UP!, Inc. Board of Directors from 1992-2002, championing improvements to education and expanding safe, decent, and affordable housing for people living on the Eastern Shore.

During her chairmanship, the agency built homes in Pocomoke City and elderly housing in Princess Anne; built new Adult Day Care Centers in Westover and Salisbury; established a Family Support Center in Salisbury; and made many other strides to support underserved communities. In service to the board, she served on the National Head Start Association organization.

In 2014, Governor O'Malley presented her with the Governor's Volunteer Service Award for her contributions to the citizens of Maryland and community involvement.

Among her many honors are the Maryland Community Action Agency Hall of Fame, Tri-County Martin Luther King Volunteer of the Year Award, Volunteer of the Year - Maryland Association of Community Action Agencies, The Greater Salisbury Committee Leader Development Award, Maryland Department of Education Outstanding Volunteer Award, and Certificate for Meritorious Service from the town of Snow Hill

The diversity of Mrs. Birckhead's background is remarkable.

Mrs. Birckhead started her career working at Campbell Soup in Salisbury, eventually becoming a supervisor. However, she was known far and wide for her Avon Sales, earning her way on the President's Club and the Albee Award for more than 30 years with Avon.

And in 1998, just to fill out her sched-

ule, Mrs. Birckhead became a seasonal employee of the Ocean City Department of Transportation, becoming the first African American to drive the Boardwalk train, a job she absolutely loved and where she made lifelong friends with the visitors and other staff.

Mrs. Birckhead especially loved working with children. For many years, she worked for Worcester County Schools as a substitute teacher and home hospital tutor. And, once she decided that she and her family had so much to share, she became a foster parent for a child in need.

Mrs. Birckhead's longstanding commitment to her community and its residents, regardless of race, religion, gender, sex, or creed led her to becoming the Worcester County Orphans' Court Judge in 1998.

While in office, she became a member of the Maryland Association of Judges of the Orphans Court. As the first African American to be elected to any countywide office in Worcester County, this was not her first stint in public office, and it was only one of her many firsts.

In 1998, prior to her election to the Orphans' Court seat, Mrs. Birckhead was interim mayor for the Town of Snow Hill; making her the first African American female mayor on the Eastern Shore.

Mrs. Birckhead became interested in running for public office when she worked as a poll watcher and then later while serving on the Board of Election Supervisors. After the formation of Snow Hill's new western district, two friends approached her to run for the seat on the Town Council.

With a commitment "to serve to the best of my ability and listen to the people," Mrs. Birckhead was elected to serve her community for six terms.

During her time in office, she championed many significant projects for her beloved hometown including the redevelopment of the former elementary school for senior citizen housing, the development of a housing subdivision for the elderly, and the renovation of a railroad station for public meeting space.

In an interview, she was quoted as saying, "I have a vested interest in what goes on here." She went on to add that the members of the council worked together to serve the entire community, 'even though we disagree at times."

Always fighting for equality, early in her political career, Mrs. Birckhead was named as a plaintiff in a successful lawsuit by the NAACP and ACLU challenging the racial fairness of the Worcester County at-large election system.

The federal court would strike down Maryland's system for electing state legislators from the Eastern Shore. The lawsuit was filed as part of a larger complaint against Maryland's redistricting plan; the suit was the first part of the larger case to go to trial.

In 2003, Governor Robert Ehrlich, Jr. appointed her to the Judicial Nominating Commission. Among her other Continued on Page 17



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Page 16



# **Berlin Activities Depot eyes growth**

Continued from Page 15

"We will do a big community garden," she said. "The whole thing is 13,000 square feet up- and downstairs."

Plans also include expanding the south end of the existing building to add 11,570 square feet of recreation space, including an activities pool.

"The new additions would be in a similar architectural style as is existing," she said.

Lastly, construction plans also include a new two-story building to house expanded educational offerings beyond Pre-K. "We have four classrooms right now," she said.

Situated southeast on the site, the freestanding addition would measure roughly 13,000 square feet, with second-floor office space accounting for about half that figure.

Solito said the goal is to open a private school for up to 60 students providing kindergarten to either first or second grade instruction.

"We would like to do more, but it depends on funding," she said.

Solito said Maryland Department of Education officials are scheduled to tour

the Berlin location next week before confirming grant requests.

Contingent on final approvals, Solito said site expansions would be completed in three phases.

"We will probably do the north side first," she said.

Commission member Pete Cosby echoed overall positive sentiments shared during the plan preview.

"We're lucky to have this facility in town," he said.

Regardless of other changes, Solito said one aspect would remain constant. "The playground is staying," she said.



Known by her family as Mommy or Naya, her love for her daughters and grandchildren was without question.

In the early years, Yogi Bear Campgrounds with the family camper were a staple. Mommy was teacher, coach, scout leader, cookie chair, and talent agent.

She traveled with her girls across the country and world and especially loved visiting Anchorage and Prince William Sound, cruising the Caribbean, or relaxing for a week in Florida during the winter. However, one of her most memorable trips was to South Korea and traversing the subway.

In these last years, visiting with her family brought her the most pleasure.

Mrs. Birckhead leaves to mourn: her beloved daughters, Brigadier General Janeen L. Birckhead (Craig Morton) and Nicolle Birckhead-Thompson; one stepson, Lewis C. Birckhead, Jr. (Norma); three brothers, Lester Ward (Cassandra), Nathaniel Ward, Sr. (Irene) and Alexander Ward, Sr. (Joyce); one sisterin-law, Alice Birckhead; four grandchildren, Craig L. Birckhead-Morton, Lindsay N. Birckhead-Morton, McKenna J. Birckhead-Thompson and Phyllis Birckhead; several nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, in-



laws, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lewis C. Birckhead; her parents, Frank and Beatrice Ward; five sisters, Louise Ward Dale, Madelyn Waters, Pauline Ward, Doretha Ward, and Lillie Mae Ward (her twin sister); three brothers, Frank Ward, Jr., Raymond Ward, and Randolph Ward; and her son-in-law, Millard A. Thompson.

Dear reader, here are words Mommy lived by and what she would leave us with, "I have learned that there is no well-cut path to the future; so develop a forward-looking approach. This will enable a sense of direction and concern that allows one to address issues that affect all people. Strive daily to maintain the integrity, competence and honesty that is needed when one seeks to improve their life as well as the lives of others."

Family visitation was held Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, at Lewis N. Watson Funeral Home, P.A. in Salisbury. A graveside service was held Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022, at Ebenezer United Methodist Church Cemetery in Snow Hill.

Please visit www.lewisnwatsonfuneralhome.com to offer condolences to the family.



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Page 18

# Germantown School lectures to kick off Sat.

# **By Greg Ellison**

Staff Writer

(Feb. 17, 2022) Launching during but not limited to African-American History Month, the Gearmantown School Community Heritage Center in Berlin will launch a four-part weekly lecture series on Saturday at 10 a.m.

Germantown School, which is located at 10223 Trappe Rd., will welcome Gabe Purnell and Vaughn White this week to share perspective on African-American entrepreneurship in Worcester County.

Germantown School Board member Karen Prengaman said the lecture,



**Barbara Purnell** 

which will run until noon, would delve into the experiences of African-American business people during the segregation era.

"The focus is not what that was," she said. "Our focus is who we are and what was our story."

Germantown School Board member Barbara Purnell said her uncle, John Smack, operated a taxi service that was one of the first African-American businesses operating in Ocean City.

"I'm really thrilled about it," she said.

The series continues on Feb. 26 at 10 a.m. with a discussion about Rosenwald Schools and African-American education in the early 20th Century.

Prengaman said prior to classroom integration during the civil rights era, about 5,000 Rosenwald Schools existed across the U.S. to educate African-American pupils.

"By the 1930s, about 25 percent of African Americans were educated in Rosenwald Schools,' she said.

Booker T. Washington is credited for envisioning the original concept for the ethnic-based institutions.

After initially pitching the idea to Sears Roebuck President Julius Rosenwald, Washington fleshed out



PHOTO COURTESY GERMANTOWN SCHOOL

The Germantown School Community Heritage Center in Berlin begins a four-part weekly lecture series on Saturday at 10 a.m. with the first installment detailing African-American entrepreneurship in Worcester County.

the vision by raising funding for the first school in mere months.

"It's an example of an early publicprivate partnership in education," Prengaman said.

The two-room school house located in Germantown was built in 1922.

"It's one of the earliest examples of the Tuskegee design," she said.

Due to a lack of electricity, the school was situated facing east to absorb sunshine inside the structure for light and warmth.

See GERMANTOWN Page 20





Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Sun. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

February 17, 2022

# Furnace Town repairs on time for 2022 season reopening

# By Jack Chavez

Staff Writer

(Feb. 17, 2022) The Furnace Town Historic Site is on pace to meet its April 1 goal of opening to the public following a devastating act of vandalism that damaged much of the property last September.

"The restoration has started," said Claudia Nagle, Furnace Town Historic Site executive director. "We're working with (Salisbury-based) Gillis Gilkerson and they're doing an outstanding job working with us. We had to get all of the insurance stuff straight and now we're just moving into high gear with getting things finished. Some of the materials for things like church windows took a little longer to order because of specific materials."

The repairs also include improvements to the historical site's security system. The damage that occurred overnight between Sept. 21 and Sept. 22 wasn't discovered until the next morning. With the improvements, an alarm will go out immediately if the historical site is breached during its off-hours.

The upgrades were a donation from the security company, Nagle said, which helped them save even more.

Following the vandalism, the Worcester County Commissioners expressed an interest in possibly helping Furnace Town financially while it recovers. The vandalism forced the historical site to close about a month earlier than when it normally shuts down for the offseason.

Private offseason events were also affected, in conjunction with the ongoing pandemic.

"We can do private events in the offseason," Nagle said, "But the grounds are closed. Since the incident, we haven't allowed anyone free access to the property. We were having a great season and then that set us back."

Nagle added that organization had





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JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Furnace Town Historic Site is on track to open this April after vandals, who are still at large, caused extensive damage to the facilities and grounds in September. The repairs include an improved security system.

recently submitted its annual request via the grant process to the county and are hoping for a favorable outcome.

"The money they would allocate for us not only helps us with operations and critical activities that we do, but it also acts as a matching requirement," she explained. "Many of the other grants we'd apply for, say heritage or capital grants, require a dollar-for-dollar match. Without those funds from the commissioners, it really limits it. They've been supportive of us in the past and we hope that will continue."

# Germantown School hosting lectures for next four weeks

#### Continued from Page 19

"At least a few former students will be on hand to answer questions at the end," she said.

The series will continue on March 5 with a talk about traditional African-American healing methods.

Prengaman said Barbra Purnell recalled distant memories of her grandmother re-purposing spider webs to heal flesh wounds and putting onions on foreheads to excise fevers.

Prengaman said a number of traditional healing methods trace back to Africa.

"We're looking to elicit memories from community members," she said. "Once we get people started, we hope memories will occur."

The final installment on March 19 concerns genealogy research.

Because the covid-19 pandemic

shuttered a wealth of activities since 2020, Germantown School board members opted to reimagine uses for the historical landmark.

"Covid allowed us to consider who we were," she said. "The original mission was a school for teaching and that is where we want to be."

Purnell said the lecture series will have a special impact on her contemporaries.

"It brings back a lot of memories of our younger days," she said.

Seating is limited and reservations can be made by emailing germantownschool@gmail.com or calling 443-235-9803. For additional information visit the Germantown School on Facebook.

Purnell said interest in the lecture series has been growing steadily.

"We've been getting a few calls for reservations," she said.

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# **Planning Commission approves community**

By Jack Chavez

Staff Writer

(Feb. 17, 2022) The Worcester County Planning Commission gave a favorable recommendation on Feb. 3 of the Landings at Bayside, a proposed 106 multi-family home community located on the east side of Route 611 and north of Snug Harbor.

"What we're here for is the same approval that we requested and received in 2005," said John Salm, president of Berlin-based J.W. Salm Engineering. "We're asking for 106 units, which is the same as we asked for in 2005."

The property has been under development for some time, Salm said, having changed hands twice since 1997. The property is owned by developers Toll MD Partnership now. Previous owners, which received the green light from 2005, ceased construction around the time of the Great Recession.

Salm told the commission that plans are to complete building out partially developed lots and start and complete developing multiple other lots.

"(The owners) are keeping the density the same as it was before," he said. "It's the intent of the developer, even though we phased the plan at the discretion of the (commission),



The Landings at Bayside will be a residential planned community just north of Snug Harbor in a neighborhood that already features condos and single-family homes. The new development calls for 106 multi-family units.

the developer intends to build this all out in one fell swoop and get the multi-family homes all done."

The plans are changing slightly, however. Originally, the design called for townhome-style condo units with one above and one below, except the flanking condos. They're now straight, up-and-down townhomes, Salm said. The renderings call for a garage level with a recreation room, a common space floor, a bedroom floor and an attic floor with an extra bedroom.

"Everyone has a first floor, second

floor, garage," Salm said. "There's not one unit above the other and that's the only change we've made to this project."

Commission member Mary Knight, while stressing her comments were for county staff more than they were the developers, said she wanted to make sure that determining Fire/EMS service impacts were a high priority for this project and any other.

"I know what the average response time for Ocean City and the county is, but I don't know what the median for the county is. That's just a concern of mine and I hope that when these projects come up, that's a question and consideration. You're adding lots of people who are going to need those services," Knight said.

"I'd like to see with these kinds of plans what the impact is because I think that's a serious consideration, especially for our county. People move into Worcester County and not into southern Delaware because of our infrastructure and the services we offer. I want to maintain that high level, so folks invest here."

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# **Shockley running for reelection in Worcester**

# By Jack Chavez

Staff Writer

Page 22

(Feb. 17, 2022) Former Worcester County Commissioner Virgil Shockley has formally announced his campaign to win back his commissioner seat.

On Feb. 8, Shockley, who changed his party affiliation to Republican in 2020, filed his registration with the Worcester County Board of Elections. Shockley was last in office in 2014. He ran again in 2018 but lost.

Shockley said it was always a matter of when, not if, he'd announce his plans to run in 2022.

"We never closed the 2018 campaign) bank account," Shockley said. "Win or lose, this is four years. Honestly I think it should be like the judges, after 70 it should be it. That's my decision, nothing against anyone that does otherwise. This is it for me. There are some things I want to finish."

Shockley, 68, will be challenging Commissioner Ted Elder's seat in District 4, from which Elder took from him in 2014.

At the forefront of his campaign's issues, Shockley plans to highlight broadband access, preservation of agricultural land and challenge Elder's voting record on both.

"Basically, I wanted to make sure that everyone in Worcester County



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what you actually have is on the part of a commissioner who won my seat, then promised that he'd do what I planned on doing, and failed."

"Six years went by (from 2014 to 2020) and then covid hit.

You had students at home trying to learn and they didn't have excess to HS (high speed) internet. The Board of Ed provided (WiFi) hotspots for students and also teachers. I'm not sure what the sum ended up being, but it was quite high. This was just failed policy or lack of not doing anything about something that could have and should have been done before the pandemic ever hit." Regarding agriculture, Shockley touted the fact that as a farmer, he brings a first-person perspective to issues that involve the preservation of farmland.

"We need to sit down and take a look at agricultural preservation," he said. "Commissioner Elder has voted against it or excused himself every time. You can make an argument that the state should have implemented this 20 years ago, but the state did, and the money is collected and is there and Worcester County should get its share and use it to preserve farmland."

"We have an opportunity to preserve farmland forever. Once you pave it and house it, it'll never be farmland again."

Other issues Shockley brought up included managing the county's reserve funds, looking at its funding designation practices and prioritizing the needs of emergency services around the county.

With the primaries still months away, Shockley is focusing now on getting his campaign in order. He said in the coming weeks he plans to start erecting election signs and feeling the pulse of the District 4 constituents and listening to their concerns. He also plans to meet with emergency services providers in the northern end of the county eventually.

As commissioner, Shockley said he will support those who can defend why they need funding or help.

"The job of the commissioners is seeing to the health and safety of their citizens," he said. "It shouldn't be in dispute. Why are we having a conversation about it? You can penny-pick certain things but why are we having discussions about having enough services or enough ambulances? If you defend it, you've got it."

# **Worcester begins population study**

#### By Jack Chavez Staff Writer

Virgil Shockley

(Feb. 17, 2022) Worcester County officials are in the beginning stages of looking at how the county's popula-

tion growth will affect the drafting of its next Comprehensive Plan after Development, Review and Permitting Director Jennifer Keener briefed the Planning Commission on Feb. 3.

"We're just plan-

ning to plan right now," Keener told the commission. "What we'll have to do in the future is take a look at the plans, consider items that need to be addressed or revised. That'll be our long-term plan for what we're going to (start) today."

The county's population grew considerably less than expected, according to U.S. census data collected in 2020. But Keener said that isn't a bad thing.

"When I said it was a good thing ... I referred to the fact that we hadn't exceeded our comprehensive plan projection for population," Keener explained. "Our 2025 projection in the existing plan is 63,543 and we're over 9,000 people shy of that. It's a good thing that we haven't exceeded where we expected to be on a capacity analysis basis. it's going to grow, but it may grow in different places. We're going to have to take a look at that and see where we want it to grow, work with the towns and go from there."

Answering the commission's questions, Keener assured commission members that the census produced a "pretty good turnout," despite complications arising by the pandemic.

"We're going to reach out to the towns. They've all updated their plans since we've had ours," she said. "As we receive information, background data, I'll send it to you. When it's time to update, we'll get to that. We'll try not to overwhelm you with everything all at once."

Commission member Brooks Clayville asked what will be worked on first, but Keener said the framework is still being decided.

Commission chairman Jerry Barbierri brought up another fact — a potential aerospace manufacturing plant in neighboring Accomack County that could infuse a substantial population increase in the Snow Hill and Pocomoke areas.

"We need to be keeping an eye on Rocket Lab and seeing what they're going to do," he said. "(They've) already purchased property for the construction of a facility and are awaiting final approval."

After the meeting, Keener described where they are is going through "very basic analysis," but added that the entire process will be very detailed.

"We have to gather a lot more data, not only population but natural change, transportation trends, housing trends, school enrollment, building permit activity — all of that comes together and is analyzed to see what our growth will look like in the future," Keener said.

"The county commissioners will have to determine where we want growth and the Planning Commission will provide that recommendation. But this is all the very beginning stages, so we just have to gather that information before we can really start to dive into the analysis part."





# Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to editor@baysidegazette.com by 5 p.m. Monday.



It's that time of year again, when local governments start throwing around numerous property tax rates and revenue projections based on what's known as the *constant yield rate*.

The term and the rate come from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, which decided several decades ago that *constant yield rate* is a more precise way of saying, "This is the tax rate your government could charge if it wanted to collect the same tax revenue in the year ahead that it got this past year with a different assessable base."

"Constant yield' means "constant result," and it's something the state calculates and makes public annually.

The Town of Berlin's constant yield rate of 78.6 cents per \$100 of a property's assessed value reflects the current revenue the town collects and the reassessment of the town's properties, which are now worth more than they were when assessed three years ago. Given that Berlin will collect \$3.8 million or so in tax revenue this year with an 81.5-cent tax rate on that taxable base, it could charge almost three cents less against the larger tax base to bring in that same amount.

Make sense? Still confused? How about this: if a property is worth \$100,000 and is taxed at 81.5 cents per \$100, the bill will be \$815. But if the property's assessed value goes up \$4,000, the tax bill can still be about \$815 if government lowers the rate by slightly more than two cents.

The constant yield rate's purpose is part of the "Truth in Taxation" standard adopted in Maryland back in the 1970s. Numerous other states might call it something else, but regardless of the label, its purpose is to give taxpayers a number to compare against whatever a government plans to charge in its new budget year.

Bear in mind, however, while the tax rate times the tax base is how local government gets much of its money, it has nothing to do with how much government must have to continue its operations at level the public expects. That's why public hearings are required and why, possibly, it's so confusing.

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# **Snow Hill High Athletic Hall of Fame**

School to induct one coach, three players during celebration

(Feb. 17, 2022) Snow Hill High School will induct four people into the 2022 Athletic Hall of Fame class later this month.

This year's class includes three former players and one coach.

The players are: Phyllis Coleman, class of 1985; Earl Redden, class of 1977; and Randy Waters, class of 1979. All three players were outstanding athletes that made their names being multiplesport athletes.

Coleman played volleyball, basketball and softball at Snow Hill. She was a fourtime regional champion in basketball, all conference in all three sports, played college volleyball and basketball and then returned to coach the Eagle volleyball team to a regional championship and state runner-up finish in 1992.

Redden also competed in multiple sports for Snow Hill, playing one year of football and three years of varsity basketball and baseball.

After high school, Redden began coaching locally, assisting Snow Hill before taking a job as an assistant coaching job at Hagerstown Community College, where he continued to coach young athletes, including multiple Division I basketball players.

Waters was a three-sport athlete playing football, basketball and baseball while at Snow Hill and is best known for being an integral part of the baseball team that advanced to the state final four his senior year.

Waters was known for his competitiveness, hustle and unyielding commitment to Snow Hill athletics. Waters also gave back to the athletes of the Snow Hill community before his untimely death in February of 2020.

This class also includes Fred Vanderveen, who will forever go down as one of the best coaches and teachers in Snow Hill High School.

Vanderveen coached football for several years as an assistant to Hall of Famer Moe Barber, where the two of them led Snow Hill football to two state championships.

Vanderveen trained many of the athletes that came through Snow Hill High School and also was a vital part of training powerlifting athletes for Maryland Special Olympics.

Vanderveen founded and operated Youth Exercise Services in Salisbury, where he trained many different athletes, with and without disabilities, to help them achieve their goals until his recent retirement.

This class will be introduced on Friday, Feb. 18, prior to the start of the boys' varsity basketball game, and will be formally inducted at the Hall of Fame dinner on Saturday, Feb. 19, starting at 6 p.m. at the Snow Hill Fire House.

Due to covid concerns and safety protocols, the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be limited to inductees and their guests.

For more information, contact Todd Lampman at 410-632-5270 or email at tglampman@worcesterk12.0 rg.

# www.baysideoc.com

# **Snapshots**



# LIFESAVERS HONORED

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The commissioners recently honored Ocean Pines Clubhouse Bar and Grille bartender Rob Ruszin and Manager Judie Scotti for their roles in saving the life of a male patron exhibiting symptoms of cardiac arrest in October. Ruszin and Scotti utilized an automated external defibrillator (AED) to shock the individual and then continued to provide lifesaving assistance until public safety professionals arrived. Pictured, in front, from left, are Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola, Ruszin and Scotti; second row: Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department President David Van Gasbeck and Commissioners Chip Bertino and Jim Bunting; and in back, Commissioners Ted Elder, Bud Church, Diana Purnell and Josh Nordstrom.



# WREATH LAYING

The Worcester County Garden Club annually places a wreath on Veterans Day at the **Worcester County Veterans** Memorial in Ocean Pines. It was designed and created by member Mary **Ellen Jefferson and placed** at the site of the Blue Star Memorial marker. The Blue **Star Memorial program** honors all men and women that serve in the United **States Armed Services.** Individuals interested in learning more about **Worcester County Garden Club can contact** WorCtyGardenClub@gmail. com. SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE



# **FIELD TRIP**

Worcester Preparatory School's fifth grade took a field trip to Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines on Oct. 8, in preparation of Veterans Day. Students crafted and personalized cards to send to veterans, thanking them for their service.

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DISCUSSION

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial of Ocean Pines was the topic of discussion during a recent Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City meeting. Pictured are Club President Tim Lund, left, and Veterans Memorial member and Kiwanian Jim Spicknall.

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# Burglary suspects sought for Coastal Drug break-in

# By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(Feb. 17, 2022) Ocean Pines Police are seeking suspects following an overnight burglary in the wee hours of Wednesday morning at Coastal Drug on Manklin Creek Road.

The perpetrators reportedly broke into the pharmacy and removed

medications sometime between 2-3 a.m.

Investigators are reviewing on-site surveillance footage with no word yet on developing leads.

According to reports, this is the first theft of its kind during the five years that Coastal Drug has operated at the location.



Worcester Library has updated its StoryWalk in Snow Hill for the month of February. SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAY-SIDE GAZETTE

# Calendar

# Thurs., Feb. 17

#### CPAP MASK FITTING

Atlantic General Hospital, Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. For patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. This is a free service. Appointments required: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

# STORY TIME: 'GOLDY LUCK AND THE THREE PANDAS'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Come listen to this fan favorite, with a twist. Take home activity included. For ages 2-5 years.

www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

# STORY TIME 'AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: OGE MORA'

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

#### **GENEALOGY WORKSHOP**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. This workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research by Tom Dempsey followed by a Q&A session. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

#### THE EVERLY BROTHERS FOREVER

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Frank DeLucco and Harry Burkett present the story and the sounds of the Everly Brothers. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

#### **ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS**

Held via Zoom, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join certified Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of movement. These classes uplift and improve mood. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events." 410-632-2600

# PRE-AUDITION PREP CLASS - YOUTH AGES 8-17 YEARS

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-7 p.m. The Ocean Pines Players will review the music and concept of the musical, "The Big Bad Musical." Encouraging the youth of the community to participate in live theater. www.oceanpinesplayers.com

#### **BEACH SINGLES**

*Thursdays* - Join us 55 plus at Harpoon Continued on Page 26

# **StoryWalk selection in Snow Hill features Charles Tindley**

(Feb. 17, 2022) In February, the Worcester County Library installed a new selection at the StoryWalk, located at John Walter Smith Park in Snow Hill: "By and By: Charles Albert Tindley, the Father of Gospel Music" by Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrated by Bryan Collier.

This newest title celebrates Black History Month and is particularly notable for its local connections.

"By and By" tells the story of Charles Albert Tindley who was born in Berlin, in 1851. He taught himself to read, and as a young man moved to Philadelphia to pursue his education.

Inspired by African American spirituals he heard as a child, Tindley composed dozens of gospel hymns during his life and served as pastor of the East Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia for many years.



Collier also has a local connection, as he grew up in Pocomoke City. His unique style of painting incorporates watercolor and collage, and his books have won numerous awards, including four Caldecott Honor recognitions and six Coretta Scott King Illustrator Awards.

The Library also has a large collection of Collier books available to checkout. For more information, visit WorcesterLibrary.org. The mission of the Worcester County Library is to promote reading, thinking, learning, and the enjoyment of the arts.

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Page 25

# <u>Calendar</u>

Continued from Page 25 Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. Info: 302-436-9577 or BeachSingles.org

# Fri., Feb. 18

# SEASIDE BOAT SHOW

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Featuring approximately 350 boats, more than 140 exhibitors, crafts, jewelry and nautical wear. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$1 for children and \$15 for weekend passes. 443-880-3602, www.ocboatshow.com

## **OCEAN CITY INDOOR CUP**

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City. Offering soccer or futsal action for those with 2008 birth year and up. \$400 per team.

tournaments@oceancitymd.gov, www.oceancitymd.gov/soccer, 410-250-0125

# MINDFULNESS COLLAGE

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Create collages of self-discovery using methods of peace and tranquility through mindfulness. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events" or call 410-957-0878.

## BERLIN BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'THE WATER DANCER' BY TA-NEHISI COATES

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Lively discussion facilitated by Cynthia Hanagud and Gail Samis of Salisbury University. Copies of there book are available at the Berlin branch, 410-641-0650. www.worcesterlibrary.org

# **OYSTER FRITTER SANDWICHES**

American Legion #123, 10111 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, 2 p.m. Cost is \$9. The public is welcome. 410-641-3760

# Sat., Feb. 19

# SEASIDE BOAT SHOW

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Featuring approximately 350 boats, more than 140 exhibitors, crafts, jewelry and nautical wear. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$1 for children and \$15 for weekend passes. 443-880-3602, www.ocboatshow.com

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tournaments@oceancitymd.gov, www.oceancitymd.gov/soccer, 410-250-0125

# AARP TAXAIDE

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. AARP Foundation Tax Aide is offering tax preparation free of charge to the citizens of the lower shore. The group is IRS certified Tax Preparers. Appointments: 443-373-2667 or www.aarp.org/taxaide.

# VIRTUAL WALK WITH A DOC

Join the AGH Facebook page where there will be a short presentation by one of it's providers, 9 a.m. Then go for a walk and share your selfie on social media with #walkedwithagh.tsimmons@atlanticgeneral.org.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN BUSINESSES IN WORCESTER COUNTY

Germantown School Community Heritage Center, 10223 Trappe Road, Berlin, 10 a.m.-noon. Gabe Purnell and Vaughn White lead the group through this little known aspect of Worcester County's past. Register: germantownschool@gmail.com or Karen Prengaman, 443-235-9803.

#### FAMILY LIBRARY DAY

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10 a.m.-noon. Enjoy family friendly activities, games and crafts. Fun for all ages. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

## CRAFTY SATURDAY: FAIRY TALE CRAFTS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Come join in for some crafts fit for a king and queen. For ages 4 years and older. While supplies last. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

### FRIED CHICKEN DINNER

New Hope United Methodist Church, 7348 New Hope Road, Willards, 11 a.m. Drive-thru pick up only. Menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes, greens, string beans, roll and dessert. Cost is \$14. 410-543-8244, 443-235-0251

### **RADIO-A-THON FOR LAKELYN**

Boxcar on main, 104 N. Main St., Berlin, 3-6 p.m. Twenty-five percent of all sales will go to the Draheim family. There will be a 50/50 raffle and donations will be collected. #LakelynStrong, 410-973-2502

## FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

*Saturdays* - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

# Sun., Feb. 20

## SEASIDE BOAT SHOW

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Featuring approximately 350 boats, more than 140 exhibitors, crafts, jewelry and nautical wear. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$1 for children and \$15 for weekend passes. 443-880-3602, www.ocboatshow.com

### **OCEAN CITY INDOOR CUP**

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City. Offering soccer or futsal action for those with 2008 birth year and up. \$400 per team. tournaments@oceancitymd.gov, www.oceancitymd.gov/soccer, 410-250-0125

### SPORTS DAY AT THE BEACH - SPORTS CARDS & MEMORABILIA SHOW

Westside Rt. 50 Shopping Center - Next to Hooper's Crab House, 12913 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sports cards, supplies, autographs, more. Admission donation is \$5 for adults and \$2 for kids 9 years and younger. Benefiting Believe in Tomorrow. Wayne Littleton, 410-723-2842, believeintomorrow.org

Mon., Feb. 21

#### DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY GENERAL MEETING

Meeting via Zoom, 10 a.m. Guest speaker will be civil rights activist Carl O. Snowden. Meeting ID: 883 1945 6073. Passcode: DWC.

### AARP TAXAIDE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. AARP Foundation Tax Aide is offering tax preparation free of charge to the citizens of the lower shore. The group is IRS certified Tax Preparers. Appointments: 443-373-2667 or www.aarp.org/taxaide.

### T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

### DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

*Mondays* - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 7:00-9:00 p.m. All ladies that love to sing invited. Contact Mary, 410-629-9383 or Carol Ludwig, 302-242-7062.

# **Tues., Feb. 22**

## STORY TIME 'NUMBERS AND COUNTING'

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and games about counting and math. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

### STORY TIME 'ELEPHANT STAMPEDE'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and finger plays. Takehome activity included. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

## **GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION**

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The discussion will examine an essay "Physics and World Philosophy" by Max Planck. The group is currently reading selections in Book 2 of Great Conversations. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

# OCEAN PINES PLAYERS - YOUTH AUDITIONS

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 5-7 p.m. The Ocean Pines Players will audition youths, ages 8-17 years, for a part in "The Big Bad Musical." No experience necessary. Audition forms:

https://sites.google.com/view/oceanpinesplayers.

# THE FIRE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Meeting via Zoom, 5:30-7 p.m. The group will explore Douglass' life, family and career. Registe: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events." 410-632-2600

## DELMARVA DANCING

*Tuesdays* - Selbyville Elks Lodge 2173, 13324 Worcester Highway, Bishopville, 5:30-9 p.m. Dance to the sounds of the '50s and '60s. A \$5 donation to benefit Veterans. Participants show proof of vaccination or wear a mask. delmarvahanddance@gmail.com, 410-208-1151

# Wed., Feb. 23

# STORY TIME 'TEDDY BEARS'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories about teddy bears. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

## PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB

Meeting via Zoom, 3:30 p.m. For kids ages 8-11 years. Members will choose title at January meeting. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

# **OCEAN PINES PLAYERS - YOUTH AUDITIONS**

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 5-7 p.m. The Ocean Pines Players will audition youths, ages 8-17 years, for a part in "The Big Bad Musical." No experience necessary. Audition forms:

https://sites.google.com/view/oceanpinesplayers.

# VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

Meeting via Zoom, 5:30 p.m. Discuss Jane Austen's classic romantic comedy, "Pride and Prejudice." Available on Hoopla in both ebook and audiobook format. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

# **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5:30-7 p.m. Providing participants with hope for the future. Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org

# GEORGIA O'KEEFE IN NEW MEXICO

Meeting via Zoom, 6:30 p.m. Follow Diane Heck on her self-guided adventure through O'Keefe's homes and museums to feel her wild spirit. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events." 410-632-2600

# **Puzzles**

#### SCI-FI SHOWDOWN BY STEPHEN MCCARTHY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Stephen McCarthy, originally from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, is a Ph.D. student in Stockholm studying transportation modeling. This is his third Sunday Times crossword and his fourth Times puzzle overall. There is a little trick to this one, and your solution may not match everyone else's. The middle part of the grid, Stephen says, was the most challenging to construct. — W.S.

- ACROSS 52 Events where one person's trash may 1 Goal for many a T.A. be another person's 4 There's a Winter one in treasure St. Petersburg and 56 Pull back (in) a Summer one in 59 Capital-B Belief Beijing 61 Family name on TV's 10 Confront "Succession" 16 QVC alternative 62 Vote in favor 19 Grande preceder 63 Prefix with futurism 20 Many a video-game 64 Outback offering player has one 65 Locale of the 2002 21 Hebrew name of God 22 Major N.Y.S.E. events 67 Long-term damage 24 Vainglory 68 Some copywriting 25 Good side in awards 70-Across 69 The volcano Emi 27 Reid of "Sharknado" Koussi is its highest 28 Grade-school basics point 30 Scoundrel 70 The better of two major sci-fi film franchises? 31 Points all around? 32 Celsius of the Celsius 72 Climb (up) scale 33 Director Nicolas 73 Gives a bad hand? 74 "But 35 Good cheer 75 Gentle hill 37 People to pick from 76 Grams, by another 38 Major role in name 70-Across 77 Voice heard by 500 41 Smartphone million people forerunners, in brief 78 \_ Majesty 42 "\_\_\_\_ kingdom come 79 Not for moi? 80 Pump choice 43 Big stretch 44 Bluish-gray shade perhaps 46 Mobile 83 Begins to like 48 Time might be shown on the side of one 50 Score of 8, in golf slang
- 82 Spot for a patch, 86 Regular at Citi Field 89 Small spot for a castaway 91 Ian McKellen, e.g. Online subscriptions: Today's 92 Skin-care brand with an accent over its last letter
- brief? 97 Not looking good 99 Major role in 70-Across 102 Stop at the liquor store? 103 Comforting phrase 106 Newton of the Black Panther Party 107 " Darko" (2001 cult film) and 2022 World Cups 109 Distend 110 Who wrote "April is the cruellest month" 113 Scratch-and-sniff page, e.g. 114 Dramatic accusation 115 Good side in 70-Across 118 Misfortune 119 Cousin of a skimmer 120 One 121 "Do you mind?" \_ counting? 122 Brown of HBO Max's "Gossip Girl" reboot 123 WaPo competitor 124 "There's not much hope' 125 Bumper attachments 126 Sazerac cocktail ingredient DOWN 1 Records in advance 2 Time for a shootout 70-Across 4 Apple device 5 Affirms 6 Some college classes
  - 95 Sends a Telegram, in 8 Diet Coke doesn't have a single one: Abbr. 9 Wipes out 10 "The Clan of the Cave Bear" heroine 11 What's raised in a ruckus 12 Waste of an election? 13 Confesses 14 Bad thing to be stuck in 15 On-line connection? 16 Arrive at, as a solution 17 Memorable quote from 70-Across 18 "Take your time" 23 Audacious 26 A target for Target, say 29 It might be a shocker 31 "The Simpsons" character 33 Social media star Addison 34 Partner of one 36 French skin-care and cosmetics giant 38 \_ teeth (proverbial rarity) 39 Noble title 40 Follower of black or special 44 Slanders 45 Director Waititi 47 Ones involved in a transaction 3 Memorable quote from 49 Nutty confections 51 So-called Breakfast of Champions 53 They might end on a high note 54 Sound of a jaguar 55 Let out, in a way



71 "It's a 57 Some contents of golf 1 22 bags 72 Show of scorn

su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom **HARD - 55** 

Fill in the blank spaces in

the grid so that every vertical column, every horizontal row and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9, with-

out repeating any. There is re-

ally only one solution to each

58 Needing to butt out

64 Albert who developed

66 Leaves in a huff, with

precedes "band"

provinces: Abbr.

69 One of the Prairie

a polio vaccine

60 Potato or pea

preparer

"off"

68 Innocent

puzzle.

67 Body part that

- 74 Question of confusion or disgust
- 79 Sound of a Jaguar 81 Reassuring words Hiring" 83 "
- (business sign) 84 Kind of card
- 85 The "guail" in Beethoven's

"Pastoral" Symphony

87 By plane, say

95 "Seems so" 96 Like the inside of a lava cake 98 Devices in atomic clocks 100 Converse, e.g.

88 Obvious untruth

90 Q preceder?

93 Aloof

104 Jeer

- 101 Rank
- 102 Common waitingroom viewing
- 115 "Enough already!" 116 Suffix in organic chemistry 117 Quirk

105 Shock treatment, for

108 Noises that come

112 Carded, informally

113 Tabbouleh go-with

from pens

111 "Girls" creator

Dunham

short

107 Slobber

						1	1	
6		3			1		2	5
					8			
9 7			6				4	
7				2				1
	6				3			9
			2					
4	8 2		1			2		6
	2	7						

# Answers to last week's puzzles

2	9	4	5	1	6	8	3	7
8	3	6	2	4	7	9	5	1
7	5	1	9	8	3	2	6	4
6	2	7	8	5	1	4	9	3
9	4	8	6	3	2	1	7	5
3	1	5	7	9	4	6	2	8
1	7	2	4	6	5	3	8	9
5	8	3	1	2	9	7	4	6
4	6	9	3	7	8	5	1	2





# **Bayside Gazette**

 $\mathbf{28}$ 

# February 17, 2022



#### February 17, 2022

# **HELP WANTED**

Pipeline Contracting LLC is one of the area's premier home remodelers on the eastern shore serving Maryland & Delaware beaches and surrounding areas. We are looking to hire a Crew Lead, Skilled Worker, and a Helper. Please call to schedule interview, 410-208-1518.

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# **Bayside Gazette**

Seeking YR & Seasonal Rentals! Call Howard Martin

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RENTALS

Realty 410-352-5555

1210 Philadelphia Ave. 410-289-8581

### SEEKING RENTAL

Retired, Single Female seeking immediate yearround rental in Ocean City, Ocean Pines or Berlin area. 443-754-7054

### **REAL ESTATE**

FOR SALE BY OWNER HUGE, Spacious Doublewide w/outside building in nice park in West Ocean City. Excellent condition. Fully furnished. All real wood furniture. All appliances, etc., etc. Call for more details and appointment to see, 443-523-7878.

#### COMMERCIAL

2 Office/Retail Spaces available in West Ocean City Each are approximately 1600 sq. ft. Call 443-497-4200

### **STORAGE**

Storage West Ocean City. 2-car garage for rent w/attached work room. Total 775 sq. ft. Call John 410-726-0075.

#### DONATIONS

Do you have an old bicycle not being used? It could mean a world of difference to a hard-working international student. We are looking to get as many bikes as possible. Your donation will be taxdeductible. Contact Gary at 443-975-3065

CAREGIVER 30 Years Experience. 302-233-4727 WE BUY AND SELL pre-owned furniture, antiques & collectibles. Rt. 346 Emporium, LLC,

Parsonsburg, MD. 443-880-3082

**SERVICES** 

**Classifieds now** appear in Ocean City Today & **Bayside Gazette** each week and online at oceancitytoday.com and baysideoc.com

#### **SERVICES**

BUDGET MOVERS 443-664-5797 LOCAL & EAST COAST MOVING **Full Packing Service** Piano Movers - Full Service

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# **AUCTIONS**

The contents of mini storage units will be sold online at Lockerfox.com. Units to be auctioned: L9/ 027/038/0148/0155/B7/ B42/B63/B85/S5/S35/ S102/S185/S315. Units are being sold due to non-payment of rent. Common items in units are. household items, furniture, tools, fishing equipment, paintings, antique and vintage items.

Date: Friday, February 25, 2022 Time: 10:00 am This will be an online auction. OC Mini Storage. Please go to Lockerfox.com and register.

Feel free to call 410-213-2029 for any questions re-garding the online auction.

# West Ocean City. Call for price and more info., 240-429-7735 1994 19' Sunbird Bowrider, 115 hp Johnson (rebuilt in 2017), Ez-Loader bunk trailer. Reduced to \$5,000. Call 410-213-1383.

2013 22' Sunchaser Pontoon Boat, 115 hp Evinrude ETEC, no trailer. Reduced to \$14,900. Call 410-213-1383.

1992 PRO-LINE Dual Console, 2012 150 hp Evinrude ETEC 2016 Loadrite galvanized

roller trailer. **Reduced** to \$10,990. **Call 410-213-1383.** 

2016 Sunchaser 22' Lounger DH (side by side captain's chairs), 115 hp Evinrude ETEC with factory warranty. Many options. \$27,500. Call for more information. Leave message at 443-546-0889

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# Page 29

**BOATS/PWC** 

2021 Sunchaser Vista LR

22 Pontoon Boat with

115 hp Yamaha Outboard

Cruising model with many upgrades. Excellent

condition. Upgrading to

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